

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

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SUBJECT: US-USSR ENERGY AGREEMENT: MAGNETOHYDRODYNAMICS
(08.0208)

REF: (A) STATE 55565, (B) STATE 28651

1. EMBOFFS MET WITH LICARDI AND RUDINS SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL AND ACCOMPANIED THEM TO WRAP-UP MEETING 9 MARCH AT INSTITUTE OF HIGH TEMPERATURES ("IVTAN"). LICARDI AND RUDINS HAD TOLD SOVIETS THAT VISIT WAS FOR ORIENTATION PURPOSES, AND HENCE SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF US-USSR PROGRAM WERE NOT DISCUSSED. IVTAN DIRECTOR SHEYNDLIN ASKED LICARDI AND EMBASSY TO PASS TO DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY SOVIET REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF NEXT MHD BILATERAL STEERING COMMITTEE FROM THIS APRIL UNTIL FALL, PREFERABLY SEPTEMBER OR OCTOBER. SHEYNDLIN EXPLAINED THAT HE AND IVTAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR SHELKOV WOULD HAVE TO BE IN THE U.S. FOR TECHNICAL MHD SYMPOSIUM AT THAT TIME, AND WOULD PREFER TO BE ABLE TO DO BOTH IN SINGLE TRIP. SHEYNDLIN CONTINUED THAT LAST BILATERAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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WAS HELD IN DECEMBER 1977, AND LITTLE HAS HAPPENED IN COOPERATION SINCE THEN TO MERIT FULL MEETING SO SOON. SHEYNDLIN CONCLUDED THAT MEETINGS OF STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD "IN PRINCIPLE" BE HELD ONE PER YEAR, WITH MEETINGS ALTERNATING BETWEEN THE US AND USSR. PLEASE ADVISE RESPONSE TO SHEYNDLIN THROUGH STATE CHANNELS

2. DURING FINAL LUNCH, SOVIETS BROUGHT UP FOLLOWING POINTS
ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOVIET MHD PROGRAMS;

(A) THE "PILOT-INDUSTRIAL" U-500 MHD FACILITY HAS JUST RECEIVED "GOVERNMENT CLEARANCES AT ALL LEVELS," SO WORK MAY PROCEED. NEXT STEP, ACCORDING TO SHEYNDLIN, WILL BE TECHNICAL CERTIFICATIONS OF THE INSPECTORATES (GOSSANNADZOR, GOSGORTEKHNAZDZOR, ETC.) WHICH WILL TAKE ABOUT A YEAR.

(B) IN EXPLAINING CURRENT EFFORTS, IVTAN DEPUTY DIRECTOR PISHCHIKOV STATED THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN INVOLVED IN AN INTERMINISTERIAL COORDINATION STRUGGLE: IVTAN HAD TURNED TO THE MINISTRY OF THE ELECTRIC-EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY TO CONTRACT FOR BUILDING OF THE U-500'S COMBUSTER UNITS. WHEN THAT MINISTRY LEARNED THAT COMBUSTORS WOULD HAVE TO OPERATE UNDER TENSION OF SEVERAL THOUSAND VOLTS, IT DEMURRED, STATING THAT SUCH PROJECTS WERE UNDER COMPETENCE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY. LATTER MINISTRY, ON SEEING NATURE OF COMBUSTOR, PUSHED PROJECT BACK TO MINISTRY OF THE ELECTRIC-EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY, CLAIMING NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE OPERATION OF "THINGS THAT FUNCTION LIKE ROCKETS."

(C) THE FIRST SOVIET MHD INSTALLATION, THE U-02, HAS NOW BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION, ALTHOUGH IVTAN KEEPS A TECHNICAL TEAM THERE. THE U-02, ACCORDING TO SHEYNDLIN, IS IN NEED OF MODERNIZATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND HE CLAIMED THAT THE MINISTRY WOULD BE BETTER ABLE TO EFFECT THESE STEPS THAN IVTAN OR THE ACADEMY. SHEYNDLIN CONTINUED THAT THE U-02 WILL HENCEFORTH BE USED FOR TWO PURPOSES: TRAINING OF MINPOWER PERSONNEL IN MHD WORK FOR THEIR EVENTUAL RUNNING OF THE U-500 AND DEVELOPMENT OF COAL-FIRED MHD. ASKED WHETHER THE U-02 WOULD USE REAL OR SIMULATED COAL IN ITS EXPERIMENTS, SHEYNDLIN SMILINGLY REPLIED THAT THE U-02'S PROXIMITY TO THE KREMLIN WOULD ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF WORK WITH ANYTHING BUT COAL SIMULATION.

(D) SHEYNDLIN SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN WITH DEPUTY PREMIER KIRILLIN ON 8 MARCH, AND THAT KIRILLIN RETAINS HIS SUPPORT OF BOTH THE SOVIET NATIONAL PROGRAM AND ENTHUSIASM FOR THE US-USSR COOPERATION IN MHD.

3. COMMENTS: (1) SHEYNDLIN'S REQUEST FOR POSTPONEMENT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WAS PROBABLY DIRECTED FROM ELSEWHERE, SINCE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CUT OUT A TRIP IN A PROGRAM THAT IS BRINGING HIM SO MUCH SPECIAL ATTENTION; THE DECISION WAS PROBABLY TAKEN ON THE BASIS OF HARD-CURRENCY EXPENDITURES REQUIRED BY TRIPS TO THE WEST. SHEYNDLIN DID, HOWEVER, COMMENT THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED

FROM A TRIP TO PARIS. (2). WE FIND PISHCHIKOV'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH THE MINISTRIES BUT ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE FRACTURED STATE OF RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE SOVIET ENERGY SECTOR. (3). SHEYNDLIN'S NAME-DROPPING WAS INTENDED NOT ONLY TO SHOW THAT HIS PROGRAM STILL BASKS IN THE SOVIET OFFICIAL SUNSHINE, BUT THAT HE IS SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE A FRIEND TO KIRILLIN THAT THE TWO WILL SEE EACH OTHER ON A HOLIDAY. TOON

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